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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 23 June 1948

SUBJECT

Currency Reform in the Russian Zone

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. To carry out the currency reform, the Russians plan to sell 43 million stamps to be used with the money in circulation in the Russian Zone. The stamps have already been printed, but as of 21 June only three million had been attached. In view of the slowness in attaching, informant expects the turnover not to take place before 24 June.
2. The exchange will be made at par for amounts up to 50 RM. Additionally, 20 - 25% will be paid on sums up to 1,000 RM, 10% on amounts between 3,000 and 5,000 RM; the rate on amounts over 5,000 RM is uncertain. "Democratic" bodies, such as parties in the Russian Zone, the FDGB, the Volksrat, and public organizations, will be able to exchange their total holdings at par.
3. It is further stated that the Russians are filling stores in the Russian sector of Berlin, especially those of the Konsumverein (cooperative stores), with consumer goods which are to be released for sale when the currency reform is effected. The Russians expect to impress the inhabitants of their sector with the abundance of goods available by such an action.

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